

## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY COMMANDER MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND 471 EAST C STREET NORFOLK VA 23511-2419

1720 N00 13 Feb 18

## **MEMORANDUM**

Subj: COMMANDER'S POLICY ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

Ref:

- (a) DoD Instruction 6495.02 of 24 May 2017
- (b) SECNAVINST 1752.4B
- (c) OPNAVINST 1752.1C
- (d) OPNAVINST F3100.6J CH-2
- (e) SECNAVINST 1730.9
- (f) COMSCINST 1752.1
- 1. The prevention of sexual assault is everyone's responsibility. It does not just hurt one, it affects ALL. Sexual assault not only has a long-lasting effect on the individual victim, it also erodes unit and operational readiness, undermines teamwork, morale, and unit cohesion. Sexual assault is incompatible with the core values of the Navy and Military Sealift Command (MSC). I have a "zero tolerance" policy for this criminal offense. It is each and every Sailor's and civilian employee's responsibility to adhere to this policy and do his or her part to eliminate this crime within our organization per reference (a) through (e).
- 2. Sexual assault encompasses a broad range of intentional and non-consensual sexual contact, and may include rape, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, and forcible sodomy. The most powerful tool in stopping and preventing sexual violence offenses is Bystander Intervention (BI). The BI process includes the following:
  - a. Notice of the event:
  - Interpret it as an emergency;
  - c. Take responsibility to act don't assume someone else will;
  - d. Decide how to act:
  - e. Choose to act.
- 3. There are two reporting options available: Unrestricted and Restricted Reporting. With the Unrestricted Reporting option, anyone may report a sexual assault to the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocate (SAPR VA), healthcare personnel, or to command authorities; an official investigation will take place. Restricted Reporting is available only for military personnel; personnel using this reporting option can only report to the SARC, SAPR VA, or healthcare

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personnel; an official investigation will not take place. In addition to the above reporting procedures, military personnel may seek assistance via the Safe Helpline at https://www.safehelpline.org/ or 877-995-5249.

- 4. As referenced above, committing, or attempting to commit, sexual assault is a crime. Violators will be reported, investigated, and may be subject to disciplinary actions.
- 5. Sexual assault is illegal and has no place at MSC. As the Commander, I am committed to doing everything possible to ensure the safety, dignity, and well-being of everyone employed at MSC.
- 6. This memorandum will be widely disseminated and prominently posted on official bulletin boards throughout the workplace and MSC websites for viewing.

7. This memorandum supersedes previous Commander's Policy on Sexual Assault dated 23 November 2016.